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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re Application**

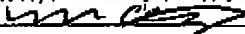
Inventors: James D. Thornton and Richard R. Burton
 Appl. No.: 09/740,076
 Confirm. No.: 4563
 Filed: December 19, 2000
 Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXECUTING
 BATCH JOBS BY DELEGATING WORK TO
 INDEPENDENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

PATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 2194
 Examiner: Zhen, Li B.
 Atty. Docket No. D/99578
 (XERX-01042US0)

Customer No.: 23910

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8
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REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
 PO Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Reply, which is in response to the Office Action dated November 29, 2005,
 is being filed within 2 months of the mailing date of the final Office Action.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on
 page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

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